

(SHRI JAHDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The provisions of Sections 158 (6) and 166 (4) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 give sufficient flexibility to the Claims Tribunals to accept claims for compensation under the Motor Vehicles Act. Government are also not aware of any case where in a claim for compensation has been rejected on account of the delay in filing the claim. Government therefore, do not consider it necessary to make any amendment to the existing provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 in this regard.

#### **Remittances of Foreign Exchange**

6833. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the Budget Speech for 1991-92, the Government had declared that the scheme of remittances in foreign exchange would come into immediate effect while it was made applicable from a latter date notified by the Government;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange remittances received in between the period of declaration of the scheme in the Budget and the notification of item implementation;

(c) whether the Government have received representations to bring those remittances within the umbrella of the Remittance of Foreign Exchange and Investment in Foreign Exchange Bonds (Immunities & Exemptions) Act, 1991; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Although the

introduction of the Remittances in Foreign Exchange Scheme was announced in the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister on 24th July, 1991, the Scheme came into operation with effect from 18th September, 1991 when it was notified under the Remittances of Foreign Exchange and Investment in Foreign Exchange Bonds (Immunities and Exemption) Act, 1991. Thus no remittances could be received under the Scheme prior to 18th September, 1991.

(c) and (d). Some requests were received by Government Reserve Bank of India for giving retrospective effect to the said Scheme. However, it was not found possible to entrain such requests in view of (a) and (b) above.

[Translation]

#### **NHB'S Assistance for Construction of Houses in U. P.**

6834. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Bank, Bombay has provided refinance facilities to Uttar Pradesh State Agricultural Rural Development Bank for the construction and repair of houses;

(b) if so, the amount of loans provided by the National Housing Bank;

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has utilised this amount;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. National Housing Bank (NHB) has formulated a Scheme for subscription to Special Rural Housing Deben-

tures (SRHDs), in terms of which NHB subscribes to SRHDs floated by Agricultural and Rural Development Banks, covering the entire lending to rural housing under the scheme against guarantee of the concerned State Government.

(b) National Housing Bank has reported that it has so far subscribed Rs. 899.50 lakhs towards SRHDs floated by Uttar Pradesh Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (UPARDB). Besides this, NHB has also paid Rs. 100 crores to UPARDB specifically for housing loans to the victims of the recent earthquake in the hilly regions of Uttarkashi as ad hoc payment.

(c) to (e). In terms of NHB scheme, the housing loans are first disbursed by ARDBs and the SRHDs are floated thereafter. SRHDs are floated not for the amount of housing loan sanctioned but for the amount of housing loans actually disbursed. Accordingly, NHB's financial assistance by way of subscription to the SRHDs is made only after the amount has been actually utilised by the beneficiaries. In respect of the amount of Rs. 10 crores, however, the amount was released to the UPARDB for being adjusted against housing loans to be granted to the victims of the earthquake. UPARDB has not furnished a report on the utilisation of the same to NHB.

[English]

#### **Loss of Flag of Jhansi Ki Rani**

6835. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flag of Jhansi Ki Rani, in the Rajasthan Rifles Regimental Centre, Delhi has been found missing;

(b) if so, the details of the case;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (e). The flag of Jhansi-Ki-Rani purported to have been captured in 1857 was in the possession of 5 Rajputana Rifles. In October 1977, the flag was despatched to the Rajputana Rifles Regimental Centre (RRRC), Delhi Cantonment for safe custody, as the battalion was due to move to a field area. The flag was found missing sometime in 1978 from RRRC, Delhi. When the Unit requested for the return of the flag in May 1980, it was not traceable.

A Unit Court of Inquiry held in 1980 and a Staff Court of Inquiry held in 1982, could not trace the whereabouts of the flag, though some lapses on the part of some Officers were pointed out for the loss. However, the case was closed by the then COAS. Subsequently, the Government reviewed the matter and entrusted the case to the CBI. The CBI registered a case in 1988 and conducted a detailed investigation. Inquiries were also made through Interpol and Indian Embassies abroad, particularly in U. K. by the C. B. I., but no evidence or clue regarding the flag could be obtained. Consequently, the CBI closed the case and filed a Closure Report u/s 173 CrPC in 1991 in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi. As even investigations by the CBI could not trace the flag, to establish any criminal case against any persons, the Government had no option, but to close the case in 1991.